

# Palm Island Voice

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ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

Thursday 26th January 2012

\$1.25

Issue 96

## Foley Shield comp cut back to 3 teams so Palm Island/Bowen is...



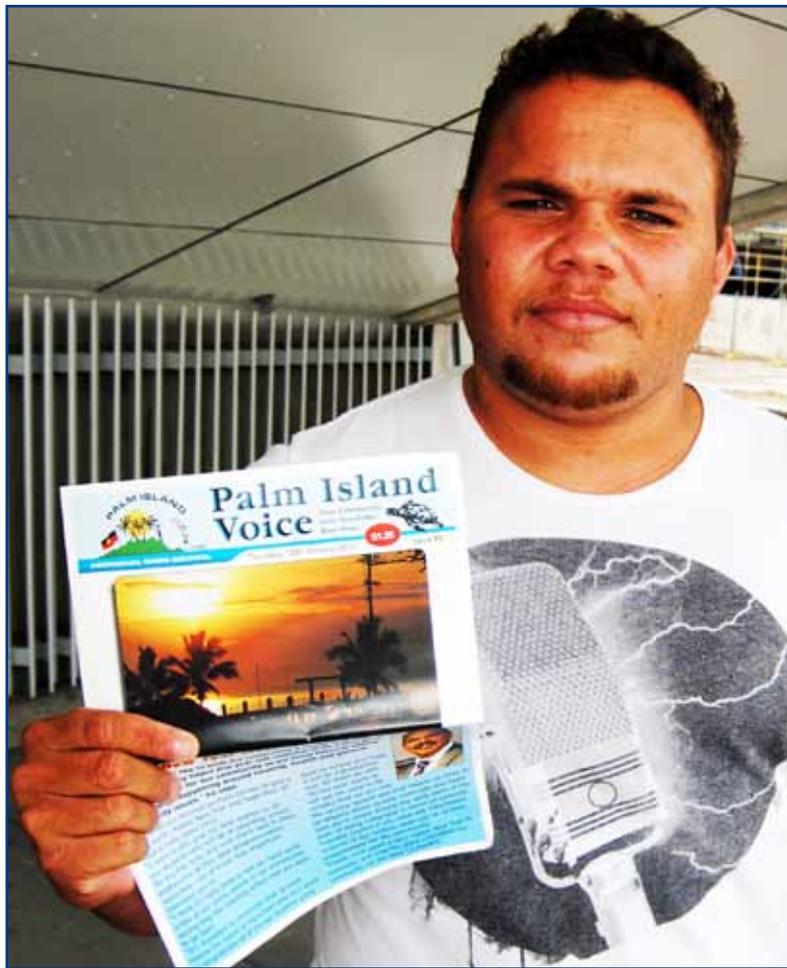
**PALM Island has been dumped from a reduced and revamped Foley Shield rugby league competition, only one year after making its debut.**

The shock decision was made despite the combined Palm Island Bowen side having by far the most number of spectators at the prestigious carnival in Townsville, and one of the shorter distances to travel. Mayor Alf Lacey, a long-time supporter of the Barracudas, said he was extremely disappointed Palm Island would not be part of the Foley Shield. "Once again it looks like Palm Island and footballers from the far north are being sacrificed and this is not good for reconciliation especially in sport," he said.

"The QRL must remember that whenever Palm competes we bring along big crowds as was the case at the 2011 Foley Shield and at Allblacks carnivals throughout the region." The Queensland Rugby League Northern Division dropped a bombshell with its decision to axe the team along with the Remote Area Rugby League (RARL - a combined Cape York and Torres Strait team) and Northern Outback teams. Despite their losses at 2011 Foley Shield, the carnival gave young players from the Palm Island six-club

domestic competition a chance to showcase their skills in front of a big audience that included NRL talent scouts and officials from clubs in the Townsville, Cairns and Mackay competitions. Word at the time was that some Palm players such as Skipjacks forward Raoul Miller, made a big impression. For many years Palm Island community leaders, elders, former footballers and residents had pushed for the Barracudas to be included in the Foley Shield.

*...continued next page...*



## Pearson brothers' plan to play up a storm for Burdekin and Skipjacks

**TALENTED** Palm Island rugby league player Darryl Pearson has been signed by the Burdekin Roosters for the 2012 Townsville and District competition.

The 24-year-old, pictured left, is one of four prominent Palm footballing brothers. His twin Clinton, and elder brothers Todd, 26, and Gary, 28, also possess great talent.

"I am two minutes younger than Clinton and my brothers have told me they will all play for Skipjacks in the Palm Island domestic competition," Darryl said.

He said by joining Burdekin he hoped to gain selection in the Townsville side to contest the 2012 Foley Shield now the combined Palm/Bowen side will not be playing.

...from previous page...

## Knock out blow for 5 out of 8 Foley Shield sides

**After years of lobbying for inclusion in the prestigious competition, Barracudas were triumphant when they were finally given their chance last year.**

Now the exclusion is seen as a backward step on an Island which by pro rata of population enjoys the most support for rugby league of anywhere in Queensland or NSW.

Instead, just three sides will contest this year's Foley Shield.

Last year eight sides competed: Cairns, Northern Outback, Townsville City, Townsville Country, Innisfail/Eacham, Remote Area Rugby League, Mackay and Palm Island/Bowen.

For season 2012, the Townsville, Cairns and Innisfail/Eacham sides will combine to make stronger teams and cut travel costs.

QRL Northern Division manager Scott Nosworthy said the decision about the three centre heavyweight format was

made due in a major part to financial constraints.

"Basically the Foley Shield will be run as part of the XXXX nationwide Challenge in 2012," he said.

"This competition is to find the best regional area in Australia.

"Cairns and Townsville will be playing as one entity and not split as in the past.

"This will mean they will be very strong.

"With no NQ Marlins Men's team in 2012 we didn't believe it was financially viable to run a carnival involving all areas this year.

"Mid West and Mt Isa at this stage will compete in the Outback carnival in June and at the same time there will be

a Far North Challenge involving the community leagues Three Rivers, KRL, NPA and Central Cape Suns.

"It is envisaged that the winner of these two competitions will play each other at a later stage. The date and venue for this game is yet to be confirmed but we are hoping to do it before a Northern Pride or Mackay Cutters game.

"Palm Island will play Bowen in Bowen on the 21st of April.

"We are looking at organising other rep games for both but again this is yet to be finalised."

Mayor Lacey's sentiments were echoed by scores of Palm Islanders who said it doesn't cost that much for Palm Island players and officials to travel to Townsville for the carnival.

# Call for education about social websites

**Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey has led a national call to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities for parents and elders to educate youngsters and adults about the inappropriate use of Facebook and other social networking sites.**

Various elders have blamed the sites for a variety of problems including feuds between warring clans, other acts of violence, and false criminal accusations against innocent people.

It's claimed the relatively new technology has caused a raft of serious problems around the country for Indigenous communities.

Mayor Lacey's statement was in support of calls by tribal leader Barry Walden from Doomadgee calling for a social media ban.

Mr Walden made the appeal when 12 youths clashed in a bloody street brawl after chat room exchanges re-ignited a long-standing feud between clans.

Mayor Lacey said almost every youth aged over 12 on Palm Island has access to a mobile phone and therefore a social networking site.

"With the simple press of a finger they can write something such as unhealthy gossip which causes a lot of trauma and problems," Mr Lacey said.

He said some comments posted had already re-fuelled long-settled animosities.

"These comments stir up old family rivalries so there has to be more education and awareness by elders and parents about the dangers of this," he said.

"We are seeing kids getting in these chat rooms and bad-mouthing others."

Chat rooms, Facebook and other sites did not exist in past eras and many elders and parents were not familiar with how they worked.



Mayor Lacey said stopped short of calling for a ban or censorship.

"I support Barry Walden and if a ban works for Doomadgee then that is good," he said.

"However here on Palm social networking sites can be good and education is needed about the misuse.

"Every Aboriginal community in Queensland has a website and youngsters can click onto Yarrabah, Woorabinda or others and check them out and put on comments.

"Most have families on other communities."

There are groups on Facebook actively fighting to stem the problem such as BAN & REPORT THE GOSSIP/YARN PAGES AND GROUPS which has more than 1070 members and posts nearly every day, asking members to identify and report pages and groups whose purpose is to spread rumours and/or target people or groups. Luarna Walsh, whose family is from Palm Island, was one the founder and moderator for the group whose blurb says in part: "This group is set up for people to post gossip pages that need to be deleted. ... Facebook is for adult behaviour!!"

Palm Island police have urged warring families to be more responsible and to avoid violence.





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12 January 2012

Councillor Alfred Lacey  
Mayor  
Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council  
C/- Post Office  
PALM ISLAND QLD 4816

Dear Councillor Lacey

This month Queenslanders are remembering the devastation of 2011 floods and in early February the first anniversary of Cyclone Yasi will be the focus of our thoughts.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your work during those difficult days and the months that followed. Together with your colleagues at Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council you made an outstanding contribution to Queensland's response, recovery and reconstruction.

I'm very aware that many people cancelled leave, giving up their own time and time with family to work long hours and go above and beyond to help Queenslanders, in the most difficult circumstances. The work that was done throughout the initial emergency and the ongoing recovery is enormously appreciated and has made a difference to so many Queenslanders.

Last summer may have broken our hearts, but it did not break our spirit. Queensland is getting back on its feet again and the result of your council's efforts can be seen in every community that was affected.

For many Queenslanders, the recovery will be a long process that will take many years and I know that councils will continue to be part of these efforts.

It is impossible to always predict what challenges nature will throw at us, but Queenslanders know that we have the capacity to respond quickly in any emergency and will stand by them as they rebuild their lives in the aftermath.

On behalf of all Queenslanders I want to thank and congratulate you for your hard work during the summer of 2011.

Could you also please pass on my sincere gratitude to all at Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council who have been involved in the response and recovery. I wish you all a happy and safe 2012.

Yours sincerely



**ANNA BLIGH MP**  
**PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND**  
**MINISTER FOR RECONSTRUCTION**



# Pre-Christmas jail visit 'saddens' Justice Group members

**PALM Island elders Veronica Noble and Margaret Parker (pictured) were saddened and emotional when they spoke about a visit to Townsville Correctional Centre and the Cleveland Youth Centre a few days before Christmas.**

They were particularly saddened by the high number of Indigenous prisoners.

Ms Parker, Ms Noble, Norris Daphney and Selena Sheppard – all members of Palm Island Justice Group – visited male and female inmates at the Correctional Centre at Stuart as well as the Cleveland Youth Centre in December.

"There are so many Aboriginal inmates, it made us very sad," Ms Parker said.

"A lot are from Palm and we were able to talk to them and let them know we are all thinking of them." Ms Noble said they all hoped that numbers of Indigenous prisoners would be reduced soon.

They also hoped their visit to Cleveland Youth Centre would help encourage younger inmates to change their lives upon release.

Their visit came soon after the Queensland State Government announced a plan to cut the shocking rate of imprisonment of Indigenous Queenslanders.

The Indigenous Justice Just Futures Strategy was released on 7 December, its intent is to tackle the underlying causes of Indigenous crime, targeting poverty, unemployment,

alcohol and drug abuse.

Townsville, Cairns, Rockhampton, Mount Isa and Brisbane will be the focus of the strategies outlined in the 48-point plan which include hiring 25 health professionals to work with at-risk Indigenous children and teens, running social marketing campaigns and giving jobs training to young people.

Local committees comprising of elders, council members and community groups will work with schools, police and health workers to help implement the strategies.



# Bulsey finally pain-free

**HUMAN battering-ram rugby league forward Fred Bulsey has decided he will play his first pain-free games in more than 11 years this coming season after some serious deliberation over the past months since having knee surgery.**

It is the time of the year when veteran footballers either in rugby league or Australian Rules think long and hard about whether they will play another season, or retire because of a nagging, or in some cases a chronic injury.

Bulsey's case may well be a lesson for those undecided sportsmen or women who have debated with themselves over loyalty to community or retiring due to pain.

Known as "Fabulous Fred", the 31-year-old Bulsey has long been feared by opponents, an inspiration for teammates, and a genuine role model for youngsters. However, since season 2000 when competing for the Palm Island Barracudas in the Townsville and District Rugby League competition, Bulsey has been carrying a knee injury and has been in constant pain.

"I did it playing against Herbert River and it has been really painful ever since, and I have played plenty of football," he said.

Despite the pain which would have seen many retire and become an official or referee, or perhaps even partake in such sports as lawn bowls or darts, Bulsey played on because of his love for Palm Island.

"I love being part of the Barracudas and seeing young footballers from here do well and get recognition," he said.

During that time Bulsey has crossed the pain barrier hundreds of times and tasted great success.

"My highlights have been being captain of the Barracudas side which beat



Mareeba in the final of the 2007 Cairns Allblacks carnival, and representing the Barracudas so many times," he said.

His mother is of Moa Island heritage and in 2010 Bulsey travelled to Badu

Island to be an integral part of the Mua Razorbacks side which took out the Island of Origin Series grand final when they beat Malu Kiai from Boigu Island.

"That was great getting up there as they really looked after me," he said.

Four months later Bulsey was a member of the Cherbourg Hornets side which defeated Kulpiyam from TSI in the Cairns Allblacks final.

Bulsey really started to feel the agonizing pain of his injured knee before the Bindal Allblacks carnival in Townsville last October and missed that and the Cairns one a week later.

He contemplated retirement and realized that was the only option if he didn't have surgery on his shattered knee.

So Bulsey took the punt and had that surgery it has worked well for him.

"A piece of my right knee cartilage was cracked off the bone and surgeons shaved it back and it took a while to heel but now it is good," he said.

He said he was enthusiastic about his prospects of playing for Skipjacks.

"I have been running for about a week and feel good and there has been no pain," he said.

"So I'm looking forward to the new season."

Loyal clubman Bulsey started playing for Skipjacks in reserve grade when aged 15.

Now he feels Skipjacks can really give the 2012 premiership a shake.

But first things first.

With his rejuvenated knee Bulsey wants to play at the Palm Island hosted Allblacks carnival in late February.

# Thaiday considers a future in boxing

**PALM Island's karaoke king and former Newcastle Knights NRL and NSW Waratahs rugby union star Milton Thaiday has indicated he is about to make a comeback in early to a sport he excelled at as a boy – boxing.**

Last year 31-year-old Mr Thaiday lined up with Townsville and District Rugby League competition Indigenous side the Bindal Sharks.

He played in several Allblacks carnivals including for Southern Balas at the Bindal carnival during October. He also lined up for the Ipswich Purga Wagtails which lost the 2009 Rockhampton Reconciliation Allblacks carnival to the Cherbourg Hornets. He has also has regularly represented the Palm Island Barracudas at carnivals.

Lismore-born Thaiday played 14 NRL games for the Knights between 2005 and '07 mostly at fullback scoring seven tries.

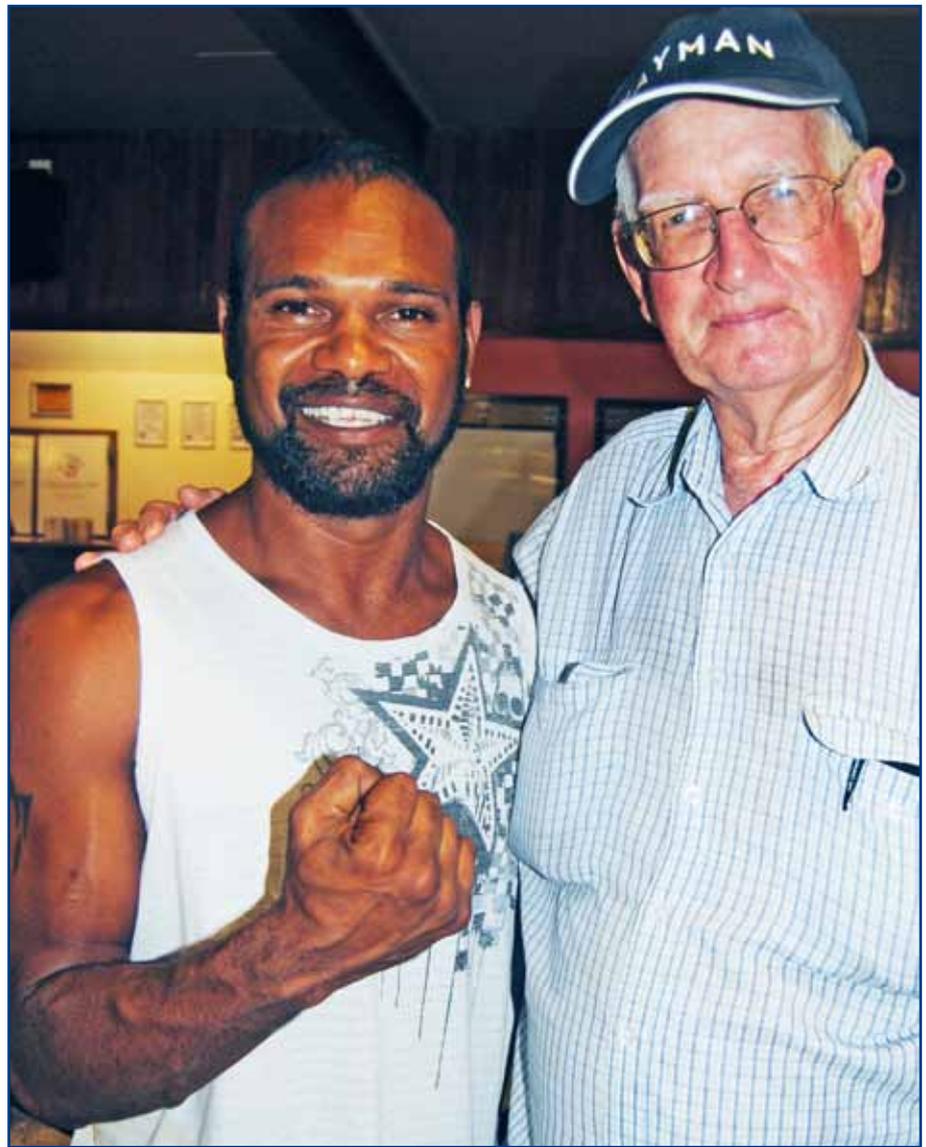
Mr Thaiday retired at the end of 2007 season after suffering a serious injury in round five.

He also played 46 games for the Waratahs in the Super Rugby League. In his younger days Mr Thaiday was a highly talented boxer.

When he lived at Batchelor in the Northern Territory he had 12 wins from as many bouts.

Mr Thaiday said he also won the NT Boxing Title for his age group in 1992 at age 12.

"I injured my knee last season and I think I'll have a go at boxing soon to keep up my fitness," Mr Thaiday said.



*Milton Thaiday & Ray Dennis*

During his heyday on the rugby league and union fields, Mr Thaiday weighed in at 78kg, which he still tips the scales at today.

"Ideally I would like to get down to about 75kg," Mr Thaiday said.

Palm Island Boxing Club trainer Ray Dennis said that Mr Thaiday would be a welcome addition and role model for the Island's younger fighters.

"People over here including the youngsters look up to Milton for what he has achieved in football and he is a karaoke singer at the Coolgaree Bar and Grill here, Dennis said.

Dennis said that Mr Thaiday is a gifted natural sportsman who had been a volunteer judge at a Palm Island tournament during August.

"He would compete as a boxer in the 75kg middle weight division," Dennis said.

Mr Thaiday's late father Mick was a well-known and much-loved Palm Island Councillor, singer ... and boxer.

"I recall many years ago when Mick Thaiday boxed under trainer Dennis Higgins in the town of Tully," Mr Dennis said.

# Palm Island Voice

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Enquiries: Janice Arnold (07) 4789 9921.

Job Ad Reference: H12TV01225.

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Closing Date: Tuesday, 31 January 2012.

You can apply online at  
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#### PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR RESUME TO:

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Ferdy's Haven  
Palm Island Q 4816  
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**COMMUNITY PLEASE NOTE: The Monument Unveiling and the opening of the buildings on the Cultural Precinct is now postponed to the 24th February 2012 due to unforeseen circumstances.**

**It was resolved at a Council Meeting in December:**

**That, from 1 January 2012, the remuneration of Councillors for carrying out their duties as Councillors to Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council is as follows:**

**Mayor \$89,147  
Deputy Mayor \$51,431  
Councillors \$44,573**

**Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council is closed every second Friday (Council pay week) for RDO. The next RDO is Friday 3 February. REMEMBER: the Bank and Post Office will now close each Council RDO. For emergencies on Friday please call 0458 789 011**

**For more information contact Council on 4770 1177**

# Palm Island Voice 2012

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**Ads are to be booked by no later than 5pm on deadline day and material submitted no later than COB the next day. For more information contact the Editor, Christine Howes, on 0419 656 277 or at [chowes@westnet.com.au](mailto:chowes@westnet.com.au)**

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## Palm Island Voice 2012

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Thursday 2 Feb	97	THURSDAY 9 February
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# New boxers and old offer high hopes for a big 2012

**PALM Island Boxing Club has started 2012 with enthusiasm, confident more new young stars will be unearthed as they train and compete over the coming year.**

Between 20 and 30 young boxers have been training at the PCYC gym five days a week with a number of new faces turning up over the school holidays. Trainer Ray Dennis said most had been asking when they would be able to have their first bout.

"It is great to see so many enthusiastic boys and some girls," he said.

Mr Dennis said that mainland clubs and boxers had been enquiring about when the next tournament would be held on Palm following the wonderful success of the one last August.

"Boxers and trainers from the mainland love coming to Palm, I have also received a lot of support from people over there who saw the two stories on national television about our boxers," he said. Mr Dennis said just how many away tournaments Palm boxers will travel to this year will depend on funding available and sponsorship.

"I am so very grateful to the Palm Island Community Company for their support throughout in 2011," he said. "PICC and Laurie Linder also paid for the

new boxing ring we have. We have also received help from the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council."

## Olympic Games

Mr Dennis also said Reggie Palm Island was still very much a chance to be selected as part of the Australian boxing team to compete at the London Olympics.

"I will give Reggie every chance – he was the only boxer from the State League selected for Australia to compete at the World Championships but injured his wrist and couldn't go," Mr Dennis said. Reggie and David Sam will make the long journey to Hobart in Tasmania from 2nd to 5th February for the Australian Boxing Association Boxing Titles. "If Reggie can win in Tassie he will be a good chance to make the Olympic team," Mr Dennis said. "David will be contesting the under 19 super heavyweight division and will be a great chance of being selected in the National Youth Team." Female boxer Noby Clay may also compete in Hobart for the flyweight 51kg division.

## Good Oil

The good oil is that if Reggie doesn't make the Olympic team he will turn professional. "I am sure if Reggie has to move away from Palm after turning professional Danny Green's trainer Angelo Hyder would train him," Mr Dennis said.

When Danny Green visited Palm Reggie sparred him and cut his lip which drew blood. Another southern identity who has shown an interest in Reggie is Robbie Peden, who won a world title and a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games. Peden has a good modern gym in Melbourne and was impressed with Reggie when he trained there.

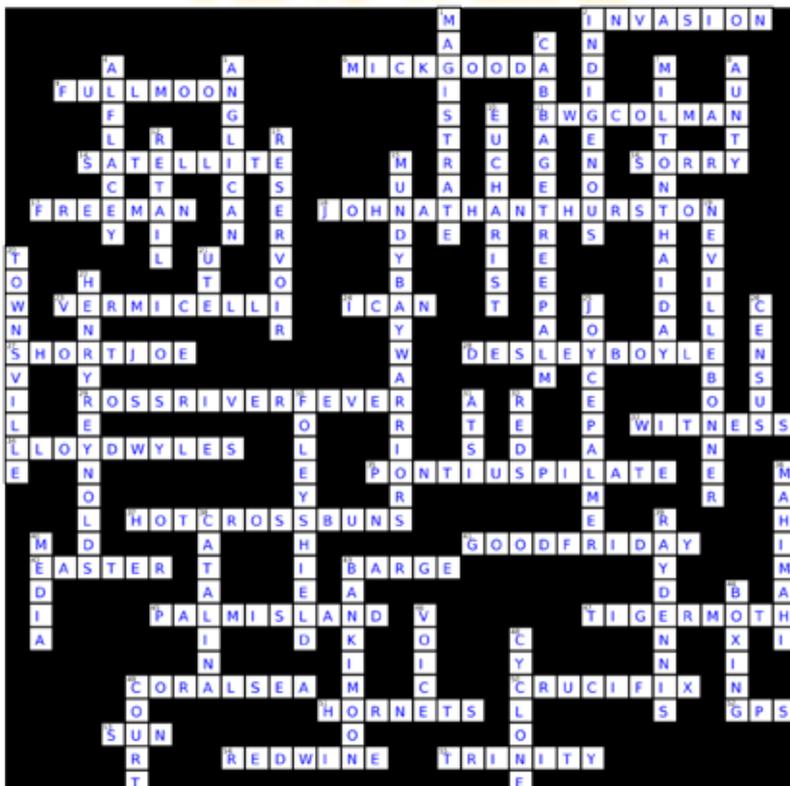
## Grooming

Mr Dennis said he was grooming his assistant trainer Chris Evers to take over the full duties at the club. Mr Evers is a school teacher and professional boxer who also drives the bus most times when palm boxers go to far off destinations for tournaments.

"I am still thinking about giving up training to allow Chris to take over," he said.

Mr Dennis he had been unable to gain a house, flat or unit on Palm because he is not Indigenous.

## Crossword 95 ANSWERS

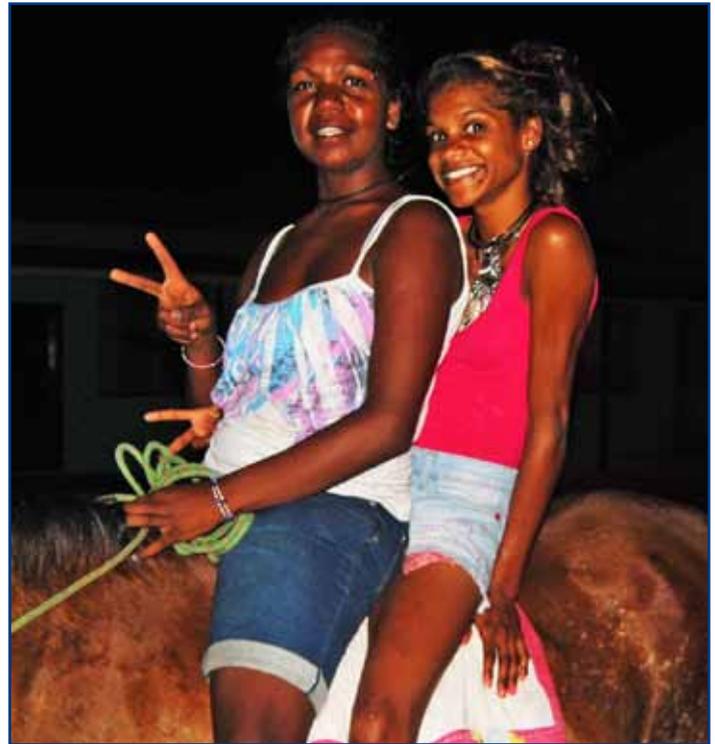


# ...Out & About...

Enjoying a moonlight ride earlier this month, Desley Noble, 16, and Kasheika Haines, 17.



Lollina Castors is proud and happy to be a mum again after the birth of her third child, Teresa, on 16 January. Lollina is pictured here outside the Townsville Hospital with her son Jalen, 4, and daughter Kay, 3.



## Raisjana is one of the best!

Congratulations to Raisjana Bulsey who is graduating as a "model student", according to Djarragun (Wangetti) Head of Campus Mark Shrimpton - well done!!!



## DJARRAGUN COLLEGE CAIRNS

### RAISJANA BULSEY

**Name:** Raisjana Bulsey.  
**Nickname:** RaeJaye, Rae.  
**Home Community:** Palm Island.  
**Favourite memory of boarding school:** Kicking back and chilling out with my best friends Louarna Kingi and Esmay Deakin.  
**Hopes and dreams for the future:** Is graduating and finishing school.

**Greatest achievement/ proudest moment:** Being voted Head Girl at Wangetti College and Vice Captain at Djarragun College.  
**Advice for new boarders in 2012:** Try your hardest. Never give up!!!!  
**Anything else:** I would like to thank all the teachers that helped me along the way and my two best friends Esmay and Louarna for supporting me and being there when I needed them the most.





Above: Christine Pompey, 26, and Jayzaru Pompey, 7, walking to keep cool in the heat; Right: Lincoln Poynter wheeling his child Rahami in a pram last Saturday Lincoln lives in Townsville but visiting relatives regularly stay with him and his family at their Cranbrook home; Below Right: Frank James driving the Western Star truck with Josh Geia as a passenger and Raymond Haines driving the front end loader as they work on Bamboo Point road.



Below Right: Frank James driving the Western Star truck with Josh Geia as a passenger and Raymond Haines driving the front end loader as they work on Bamboo Point road.



This picture (left) of David Baira & his family was recently featured in Koori Mail. They are Ilma Baira, with Teliah Barry, 10, and Elizabeth Yasserie, 5, in front of her and from left then is Ilma Palmer holding grandson Myin Bonner, 2, Isaac Tanner, 5, Fenton Tanner, 4, Johnathan Barry, 9, and David Baira holding his grandson David Baira, 7.

**PUBLICATION DETAILS:**

**Contact Details + Publisher Details**

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